(ix) The Cochin Shops and Commercial Establishmcnts Bill

Mr. P. T. Jacob (*Latin Christians-Mattancheri*): I move that leave to introduce the Cochin Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill be granted.

Mr. M. K. Raja (*Mulakunnathukavu*): I second it.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is that the House may grant leave to introduce the Cochin Shops and Commercial Establishments Bill.

Motion put and carried

(x) The Cochin Panchayat Act (Amendment) Bill

Mr. P. K. Dewer (*Nominated*): I move that leave to introduce may be granted to the Cochin Panchayat Act (Amendment) Bill.

Mr. K. T. Achuthan (*Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram*): I second it.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is that leave to introduce the Cochin Panchayat Act (Amendment) Bill be granted.

Motion put and carried

VII. RESOLUTIONS:—NON-OFFICIAL—(*cont.*)

(1) Restriction on wives of Government Officers in standing as candidates for election

Mrs. T. Francis (*Ernaknlam-Women*): As I was on my legs discussing this very important resolution as far as the women of the conntry are concerned, of course it was time, 5 p.m. and the day was closed for the session. And so I am just continuing my speech. As I was continuing my speech I was interrupted by the Minister for Food and Education enlightening me by saying that there is no restriction, no rule in the constitution and electoral rules. So there can be no ban on those who are not really officials. I am glad to hear about it. In spite of such enlightenment and the very person who is well-versed in electoral rules and has studied it thoroughly, I must take it as a valuable peace of information gained towards our favour. Encouraged by such remarks by the Minister for Food and Education, I again ask why is this difference? What is the reason for it? Why are the wives are banned and the husbands of the lady officials are allowed to stand for election in these days of equality, why is this difference? I cannot for a moment understand implications involved in it. I remember once that when there were questions about this in the Council the leader of the official block, the Chief Secretary said that Government thought it is better that women are kept silent, kept in-active in the political field for the safety of their husbands. I cannot understand that. Somewhere there is an anti-deluvian standing order where I read something of this for the acts of the Government officials husbands are responsible. If really the wife does wrong punish her properly.

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan (*Oorakam*): On a point of information is there any restriction prohibiting the wives from standing for elections?

Mr. P. Govinda Menon (*Minister for Food and Education*): There is none.

Mrs. K. Dakshayani Velayudhan (*Nominated*): If my memory is correct, I think there is a circular sent to all schools during the time of the last election that the wives are not expected to stand.

Mrs. T. Francis (*Ernakulam-Women*): It is a great injustice done to our women of our country. If there is a circular like that immediate orders must be issued cancelling that circular.

If the wives of the Government officials cannot, husbands of Government lady-officials must also be banned. If in their actions in the political field ladies commits offences punish them. If wives go wrong let her be punished. If husbands go wrong let him be equally punished. If wives of the Government officials are under restriction to stand as candidate for election the same restrictions should be extended to husbands also. Is it because Government suspect that men officials will use their official influence for canvassing votes for their wives. If they say so, what are the grounds for them to think that the lady-officials would not help their husbands when standing as candidates for election. Government have not made their position

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

clear. The restriction referred to in my resolution implies that women officers are more trustworthy than men. This is an insult to men and their honesty and character. Hence I believe that most of the non-official Hon'ble Members of this House will protest emphatically against this objectionable insinuation and support my resolution. Further I wish to say that an official who violates a Governmect Order in order to help his wife will also yield to receive bribes to make his wife comfortable. The argument to support this differencial treatment is not strong enough. Equal treatment must be meted out to both men and women. I hope that these grievances will be immediately redressed without hesitation. I can quote many instances. I think this unsympathetic attitude is due to the law-abiding nature of the women of Cochin State. I can quote many instances where justice is not shown to us, ont only in this particular case, there are very many instances which I do not want to narrate. Government knows about it. So before going too long over all these things and without losing time and we are very near our next election.....

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Who said that? One of our Hon'ble Ministers said that there will be no election for the coming three years.

Mrs. T. Francis *(Ernakulam-Women):* Let it be three years or more. I only want to say that at least during the coming election, allow the wives of Government officials to stand as candidates for the next election without any restriction, because we want to educate women to come forward out of their houses to serve in the political field for the betterment of the country. There are honest, noble-hearted women here. Cochin is not wanting in such respects.

Mr. Deputy President: The Hon'ble Member has taken considerable time.

Mrs. T. Francis *(Ernakulam-Women):* One minute more, Sir. I request Government and also all my brethren here who have got sisters, wives and mothers young enough to come to the Council, to support this resolution whole-heartedly and make Government understand the necessity for it. With these few words, I sit.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* I second the motion.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuhassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I am glad that my Hon'ble friend from Chittur has come up to the rescue.

Mrs. T. Francis *(Ernakulam-Women):* I thought this resolution was seconded last time. This is only a continuation.

Mr. Deputy President: There is no harm in seconding a second time.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* This is only an additional support. Whether a second time or not, it has got the solid support of my friend from Chittur and the opportunity is happily given to us to have a thread-bare discussion of a most misunderstood proposition. The apprehension in the minds of the Hon'ble the Lady Member who is the sponsor of the motion is that there exists in the files of the Secretariat a circular which categorically says that the wives, the better halves, of Government servants shall not stand for Legislative Council Elections. And although I was not in my seat I heard one Hon'ble Member, Sir, and the Hon'ble Mover of ours, saying that such circulars were sent out to schools. Now, Sir, we have got two misapprehensions. In the best of my knowledge I believe that no such circular exists anywhere in Cochin. With the not fully willing help that I was able to snatch away, shall I say that, from the Chief Secretary to Government of the day, I was able to understand, Sir, that with a long preample containing about one or two paragraphs what the Government of those days preceding the election did was to draw the pointed attention of the Government servants by a circular drawing their attention to this: "It is known that wives of Government servants are taking part in the elections". Look at the clever drafting "are taking part in the elections". Do they say they are standing for elections?

Rao Sahib P. V. Raphael *(Chief Secretary to Government):* You are misquoting, Sir. "Election Campaigns" and not "elections".

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Very good. That does not improve your position.

Taking part in election campaign does not mean that they are standing for elections. I must certainly congratulate the draftsmen, Sir, clever men they are only when it suits them, they indulge in dilatory tactics, because I didn't get a communication on the memorandum that is the complaint. Their attention is therefore drawn to Standing Orders Nos. 72 and 78. Standing Order No. 72 to which their attention was drawn to which they were to rivet their attention, says: "Government Servants and Politics—No officer of Government should, as a rule, attend a

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

political meeting, where the fact of his presence is likely to be misconstrued or to impair his usefulness as an official, nor may he take part in the proceedings of a political meeting or agitation". Standing Order No. 78 says: "Responsibility of a Government servant for acts done by his wife.—Officers of all grades in the public service are held responsible for acts done by their wives, which, if done by themselves, would constitute breaches of the rules for the conduct of Government Servants." Look at the solicitude of the Government in adumbrating such a Standing Order. All-embracing words!

Now, Sir, that is the circular or that is the substance of the circular. Who has ever said that the better halves of our good Government servants shall not stand for elections, on coming here would not be allowed to render service of the sort that the Hon'ble sponsor of the motion said the other day in her finishing speech. Today she was a little partial. She was saying that intelligent ladies of enlightened Cochin, some of whom happen to be, fortunately or otherwise, the spouse of male government servants, even they come here. The other day she said, here is the sentence: "It is not right on the Government to restrict the elementary rights of women to go into councils and do what they can possibly do for their sisters in Cochin State. They will not only do service to their sisters but also to their brothers" and unfortunately today knowingly or otherwise my friend on the left was somehow or other in a position to leave off brothers .....

Mrs. T. Francis *(Ernakulam-Women):* Brothers are also included in that (Laughter).

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Now you embrace them (laughter). If you cannot allow an old man to speak with a little humour.....

Mr. Deputy President: Will the Hon'ble Member speak directly on the motion?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkaucheri):* Now, she left off the brother but is now prepared to take them in. They will work, fight if necessary not only for themselves but for their brothers and every humanity and that is what she is seen doing here I believe that ever since this Legislative Council was constituted, there were lady members to represent ladies, beginning with small beginnings, and we are where we are with three lady members, two elected and one very properly nominated. That is the development and if you will peruse the proceedings of this House you will see that they have made their own contributions viewed from the standpoint of sense reasonableness and similar qualities and others. Thay have done yoeman service, please take me seriously, they have done yoeman service. Wee see them doing yoeman service. That being so the presence of lady members the more the better and absolutely necessery and anything which really stands in the way of their attempting, to come in and of course when woman attempts you know she succeeds anything that stands in the way of their coming in larger numbers certainly should not be allowed to remain here, but happily there in no such thing. That is the misconception and therefore, I wonder why a cultured lady an American returned lady who was in the election compaign like a coward withdrew from the election field and that cultured lady is the wife of an enlightened gentleman an American toured Principal of our Training School. Such a lady the spouse of such a gentleman to say that they have not understood the circular is too much, therefore I shall not say that but fear, as cowards one complementing the other, the spouse coward complementing the male coward and the male coward complementing the spouse coward withdrew from the election field, I question why? It is only the coward is of that lady member that has lost us the opportunity of her company with the advantages of her foreign travel, with her deep education and all that. If one grows into a coward don't blame others. Try to be courageous. Reference was made to the impending election which I know is receding unless of course my honourable friends, four of them seated on the other side with too many matters having also the additional burden that come on their shoulders earlier or rather brought upon their shoulders earlier, attend to this but if you will be pleased to hasten up which I know you are doing on the corrected statement of the absentee Minister on the back side of the Chief Minister—yes I consider him to be the Chief Minister and I consider it to be a Prajamandal run Ministry.....

Mr. Puthur Achutha Menon *(Kattur):* We are not questioning.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* No, but there was a humble feeble voice on the other side.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* We will take less time than you are taking for making the statement.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* When you want to stifle others. I don't want to use the other word ending in 'ly' to stiffle others.

There is nothing to prevent a Government servant's wife from standing for an election. Therefore I am in an awkward situation of being forced not to oppose but not able to support the resolution because that proposition according to her is the result of a true state of affairs and if really it is so, it requires the support of every member of this House whether male or female but it is the result of a misconception naturally of course she cannot expect the support of all persons who have understood what it is but she could not be affraid of any opposition because it is the result of what I described earlier. Therefore, Sir, with these observations I have to make an exhortation in this hall to be heard by the sisters, other sisters, mothers and daughters of Cochin, to the whole of them, more than half the population, don't be cowards, understand the Government circulars if there are circulars correctly and enter the election field in very large numbers taking a vow to do their best in this House as also outside because here-after members grouping together in this House have a place in the scheme of things endeavouring to give political education to every brother and sister of hers, thereby raising the high level of Cochin to higher heights, helping and working for the establishment of village republics which is the creed, the fundamental creed of the newly, happily newly born political party though unfortunately and without meaning, anything misunderstood delebrately and attempting to stifle it even at its birth.....

Mr. Deputy President: The Hon'ble Member has exceeded his time.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* In a second I resume my seat repeating my exhortation which I earlier made.

മിസ്റ്റർ ജോസ് കെ. വഗ്ഗീസ്: ഇവിടെ question ചോദിച്ചതിനു ഉത്തരമായിട്ടു അതു നിയമമായിട്ടു നിറുത്താൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു പറയുകണ്ടായി. നിറുത്താൻ പാടില്ലെന്നാണൊ പറയുന്നതു?

Rao Sahib P. V. Raphael (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I will reply.

*മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. ഡീവർ: സർ, ഈ പ്രമേയം ഇവിടെ കൊണ്ടുവന്നതു തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണകളിൽ നിന്നാകണമെന്നു മിസ്റ്റർ എഴത്തശ്ശൻ പറഞ്ഞതിനോടു യോജിക്കാമെങ്കിലും പ്രമേയം കൊണ്ടുവന്നതിനു തക്കതായ കാരണം ഇല്ലെന്നു പറയാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. കൊച്ചിയിലെ സ്ത്രീജനങ്ങളിൽ കൊച്ചിയിലെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ഭാര്യമാരാകാൻ ഇടവന്നിട്ടുള്ളവർ സ്ഥാനാർത്ഥികളായി നിന്നു മത്സരിക്കുന്നതു അവരുടെ ഭർത്താക്കന്മാരുടെ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിനു ഹാനി തട്ടിക്കുന്നതാകുമെന്ന ഒരു നില വരുത്തി വെച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പരമാർത്ഥം മറച്ചുവെക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഇവിടെ അങ്ങിനെ ഒരു സർക്കുലർ ഇല്ലെന്നു പറയാൻ പാടില്ല. ഈ സർക്കുലർ ഈ സ്ഥാനാർത്ഥികളായി പുറപ്പെട്ട സ്ത്രീകളുടെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരായ ഭർത്താക്കന്മാരെ ഭയപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടില്ലെന്നും പറയാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. എന്നാൽ ഈ സർക്കുലർ ലംഘിച്ചു ഏതെങ്കിലും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്റെ ഭാര്യ എലക്ഷനു സ്ഥാനാർത്ഥിയായി നിന്നിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ അവരുടെ സ്ഥാനാർത്ഥിത്വത്തെ ചോദ്യം ചെയ്യാൻ നിയമമനുവദിക്കയില്ലെന്നുള്ളതും പരമാർത്ഥമാണു. മിസ്റ്റർ എഴത്തശ്ശൻ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ അവക്തിനു ധൈര്യമുണ്ടായിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ സ്ഥാനാർത്ഥികളാകാമായിരുന്നു. ഇവിടെ വ്യാഖ്യാനിച്ചതുപോലെ അതു സ്റ്റാൻഡിംഗ് ഓർഡറിനു വിരോധമാണെങ്കിൽ, ആ തത്വം പരിപാലിക്കുന്നതിനു ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ എലക്ഷൻ കഴിയുന്നതുവരെ ഭാര്യമാരിൽനിന്നു മാറിത്താമസിച്ചാൽ മതിയാകുമായിരുന്നു. ഭാര്യയോടു എലക്ഷനു നിൽക്കരുതെന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടു കേട്ടില്ല, പറഞ്ഞാൽ കേൾക്കാത്ത ഭാര്യയാണു് എന്നേറെതെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ ആ ഭർത്താവു ശിക്ഷയനുഭവിക്കണമെന്നു പറയാൻ നിവൃത്തിയുമില്ല. "പ്രിയതമേ, ദയവുചെയ്തു നീ എലക്ഷനു നിൽക്കരുതു"; സർക്കാരിന്റെ കല്പനയാണു"; ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെന്ന നിലയിൽ എനിക്കു ചെയ്യാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതൊന്നും നിനക്കും ചെയ്യാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നാണു കല്പന. വാസ്തവത്തിൽ നിനക്കു സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യമുണ്ടു, എങ്കിലും ഞാൻ ചെയ്യാത്തതു നീ ചെയ്യരുതു് എന്നൊക്കെ പറഞ്ഞു നോക്കി. പക്ഷെ, സർക്കാരേ, നമ്മുടെ പെമ്പിറന്നവർ കേട്ടില്ല എന്നു ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ പറഞ്ഞിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ എന്തു ചെയ്യും സർക്കാർ? എലക്ഷൻ കഴിയുന്നതുവരെ തൽക്കാലം ഒരു കെട്ടിടം ഭാര്യക്കു വാടകക്കെടുത്തു കൊടുത്താലും മതിയായിരുന്നു. പക്ഷെ അങ്ങിനെ ഒന്നുമുണ്ടായില്ല. ഈ സർക്കുലർ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു വ്യക്തമാക്കേണ്ടതായിരുന്നു. സ്റ്റാൻഡിംഗ് ഓർഡർ ഈ എലക്ഷ

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ന്ന് നില്ക്കുന്നതിനെ നിരോധിച്ചിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. സ്റ്റാൻഡിംഗ് ഓർഡറിൽ ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ ചെയ്യാൻ പാടില്ലാത്ത കാര്യം അയാളുടെ പേരും പറഞ്ഞു അയാളുടെ ഭാര്യ ചെയ്കയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു അയാളുടെ ഔദ്യോഗിക ചുമതലകൾക്കു വിഘ്നം വരുത്തുമെന്നുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് അയാളെ ശിക്ഷിക്കാമായിരുന്നു. പക്ഷെ അതൊന്നുമായിരുന്നില്ല ഇങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യാൻ കാരണം. ഭാര്യമാർക്കു സാധാരണ വീട്ടിൽ ധാരാളം ജോലിയുണ്ടു്. ഭാര്യമാർ എലക്ഷനു് നിന്നാൽ ആ ജോലി ഭർത്താക്കന്മാർ തന്നെ ചെയ്യേണ്ടിവരും. എന്നാൽ എലക്ഷനു നിൽക്കേണ്ടെന്നു പറയാനുള്ള ധൈര്യം ചില ഭർത്താക്കന്മാർക്കുണ്ടായിയെന്നു വരില്ല. ഭാര്യ പറയുന്നതു് കേട്ടു നടക്കുന്നവരാണു് അവർ. അവർ യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ ഭർത്താക്കന്മാരല്ല. ഭർത്താവു എന്ന വാക്കു മാത്രം വെച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നവരാണവർ. ഭർത്താവു എന്ന വാക്കിന്റെ അർത്ഥം ഭരിക്കപ്പെടുന്നവൻ എന്നാണു്. എന്നാൽ ഇന്നത്തെ പല ഭർത്താക്കന്മാരും തങ്ങളുടെ ഭാര്യമാരെ ഇംഗ്ലീഷിലുള്ള wife എന്ന നിലയിൽ മാത്രമാണു് പലപ്പോഴും കണക്കാക്കുന്നതു്. അവർ സാധാരണ ഭർത്താക്കന്മാരായിട്ടല്ല ഭാര്യമാരായിട്ടാണു് കാണുന്നതു്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഈ സർക്കുലർ അയയ്ക്കാൻ കാരണം വേറെയുമുണ്ടു്. ഇന്നു ജനകീയമന്ത്രിമാർ തങ്ങളുടെ മേൽ വന്നുതുടങ്ങിയപ്പോൾ അവക്കൊരു ഭയമുണ്ടായി. അതായതു തങ്ങളുടെ ഭാര്യമാർ എലക്ഷനു നിന്നു ജയിച്ചു കൌൺസിലിൽ വന്നാൽ ഒരുപക്ഷെ മന്ത്രിമാരാകാനുമതി. അപ്പോൾ അവർ പറയുന്നതു് ഈ പുരുഷന്മാർ കേൾക്കേണ്ടിവരും. അവർ വിളിക്കുന്നിടത്തൊക്കെ പോകേണ്ടിവരും. അതു് തങ്ങൾക്കു പോരായ്മയല്ലെ എന്നു വെച്ചിട്ടാകാം ഇങ്ങിനെ ഒരു സർക്കുലർ അയയ്ക്കാൻ കാരണം. പക്ഷെ, ആ കാലമൊക്കെ പോയി. ഭർത്താക്കന്മാർ പറഞ്ഞാൽ ഭാര്യമാർ അതനുസരിച്ചു തന്നെ നടന്നുകൊള്ളുമെന്നാരും വിചാരിക്കേണ്ട. ഇപ്പോൾ ഭാര്യ മന്ത്രി ആണെങ്കിൽ ഭർത്താവെന്തെങ്കിലും പറഞ്ഞാൽ "ഞാൻ ഫയൽ നോക്കുകയാണു്; എന്റെ കാര്യം ഞാൻ നോക്കിക്കൊള്ളാം, തന്റെ കാര്യം താൻ നോക്കിക്കൊള്ളുക" എന്നു പറയുന്ന കാലമാണു്. ഒരു വനിത നോമിനേഷൻ പേപ്പർ കൊടുത്തിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ അവരുടെ നോമിനേഷൻ പേപ്പർ തള്ളാനുള്ള അധികാരം ഒരു വരണാധികാരിക്കുണ്ടാകുമായിരുന്നില്ല. അവരെ എലക്ടു് ചെയ്തു കൌൺസിലിൽ വന്നിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ അവരെ ഇവിടെനിന്നു തള്ളാനും കഴിയുമായിരുന്നില്ല.

ഇവിടെ ഇന്നു ലഞ്ചുസമയത്തു് ചില കൂട്ടികൾ ചില പ്രകടനങ്ങൾ നടത്തി. അതുപോലെ ചില പ്രകടനങ്ങൾകൂടി വേണ്ടിവരുമായിരിക്കാം. അടുത്ത നിയമസഭയിൽ സ്ത്രീജനങ്ങൾക്കു ചില അധികാരങ്ങൾ കാണിക്കാൻകഴിയും. അതിൽ സ്ത്രീജനങ്ങൾ രാഷ്ട്രീയ കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ കൂടുതൽ പങ്കെടുത്തു പുരുഷന്മാരോടു വെല്ലുവിളി തുടങ്ങണം. അങ്ങിനെ, യാതൊരു കാരണവും കൂടാതെ ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥപുരുഷന്മാർ ഇത്തരം സർക്കുലറുകൾ അയച്ചതിനു അവരോടു മാത്രമല്ല അവരുടെ വംശത്തോടു മുഴുവൻതന്നെ പ്രതികാരം കാണിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്- അതിനുള്ള നേതൃത്വം സ്ത്രീകൾക്കു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണു ഞാൻ മിസ്സിസ്സ് ഫ്രാൻസിസ്സിനോടു പറയുന്നതു്. കൂടണം ഉടനെ അഖിലകൊച്ചി മഹിളാസമ്മേളനം. എന്നിട്ടു 'Down with men' എന്നു വിളിച്ചു പറയണം. ഈ പുരുഷന്മാരെ ഒക്കെ എതിർക്കണം. അങ്ങിനെ നിങ്ങൾ ഈ പുരുഷന്മാരെ നല്ലൊരു പാഠം പഠിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നാണെനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു്. ഇതു ഞാൻ എന്റെ ഭാര്യയുടെ പ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യം വഹിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു്, അവരുടെ വക്കാലക്കാരുടെ പ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യം വഹിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് പറയുന്നതാണു്. നിങ്ങൾ പ്രചരണം നടത്തി അടുത്ത നിയമസഭയിൽ സ്ത്രീസ്ഥാനാർത്ഥികളെ നിറുത്തണം. ഒരൊറ്റ പുരുഷനെങ്കിലും അടുത്ത എലക്ഷനിൽ നിങ്ങൾ വോട്ടുകൊടുക്കരുതു്. ഇതാണെനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്.

Mr. Parambi Lonappan *(Irinjalakkuda)*: Sir, I support the spirit and the intention with which this resolution is moved by the Lady Member Mrs. Francis. I say this spirit and intention because it has been denied by the Hon'ble Minister for Food and Education. I do not find anything in the Government of Cochin Act prohibiting the wives of men Government servants from standing in the Leglslative Council elections nor do I find anything in the Standing Orders which states.

"Responsibility of a Government servant for acts done by his wife—Officers of all grades in the public service are held responsible for acts done by their wives, which, if done by themselves, would constitute breaches of the rules for the conduct of Government servants." So that there

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

is no prohibition in the Standing Orders of the Government of Cochin Act for the wife of a Government servant for standing for Council Election. But the difficulty seems to have arisen on account of certain circulars which seem to have been issued from the Secretariat and which frightened both husbands and wives from wives standing for elections. Of course I do not think that the Standing Order imposes any inequality upon the wives with reference to their husbands but when there is a suspected circular or a circular which gives the fear of the wives of men officials or fear to the officials themselves that their wives are not expected to stand for elections I think it is consistent with the advance times that Government should make thier positions clear by telling them that there is no such circular. I think it is for the Government to make their position to make clear by a clear statement that there is no such prohibition. With these few words I support the spirit of this resolution.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. പോരം: ഞാൻ ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ വളരെയധികമൊന്നും പ്രസ്താവിക്കണമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. കാരണം, ഇങ്ങിനെ ഒരു റൂളുണ്ടോ എന്നതാണോ സംശയമായിരിക്കുന്നു, ഇപ്പോൾ സ്റ്റൈക്കിന്റെ കാലമാണു്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സ്റ്റൈക്കൊന്നും കൂടാതെ ഒരൊറ ചെറിയ കാര്യംകൊണ്ടു ഇതിനു പരിഹാരം കാണാം. സ്ത്രീജനങ്ങൾ ഒരു പ്രമേയം പാസ്സാക്കണം. "ഗവമ്മെണ്ടുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരേയോ അഥവാ, ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ഉദ്യോഗം സ്വീകരിക്കാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നവരേയോ സ്ത്രീകളാരും കല്ല്യാണം കഴിക്കരുതു" എന്നു്. അങ്ങിനെ ഒരു നിശ്ചയം പാസ്സാക്കിയാൽ ഈ സഭ മുഴുവൻ സ്ത്രീജനങ്ങളെക്കൊണ്ടു നിറയ്ക്കാൻ കഴിയും. നിങ്ങൾ സ്റ്റൈക്കിനൊന്നും വരേണ്ട. അതു കൂടാതെ തന്നെ ഈ കാര്യം നിറുത്താമെന്നാണെനിക്കു നിങ്ങളോടു പറയാനുള്ളതു്.

Rao Sahib P. V. Raphael *(Chief Secretary to Government):* Sir, I am afraid there is a good deal misunderstanding on the subject matter of this resolution and I am glad that I have got an opportunity to explain on behalf of the Government what exactly is the situation so far as this resolution is concerned. The disqualification to become a member of this House are all enumerated, Sir, in section 16 of the Government of Cochin Act and while the section states that the fact of one being a Government officer is a disqualification, the fact that one is the wife of a Government Officer has not been mentioned as a disqualification. Without amending the Government of Cochin Act a circular or order or proceedings even if there is one—I don't assume that there is one, I will come to that afterwards, issued by Government have no force at all. Behind the statute, overlooking the provisions of the statute the Government cannot issue a circular debarring or restricting the wife of a Government servant from standing for elections.

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* It will form a mild threat.

Rao Sahib P. V. Raphael *(Chief Secretary to Government):* Absolutely not.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkanche i):* But the mischief has been played.

Rao Sahib P. V. Raphael *(Chief Secretary to Government):* I will come to the mischief which you think we have made. With regard to the observations of the Hon'ble Member for Labour, if *A* says that his wife did not obey him and that he could not help his wife standing for election how can any Government, whether the Government of the day or of that day or of this day call upon him to explain. Do you think the Government will be so unfair towards their servants?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Devoted servants!

Rao Sahib P. V. Raphael *(Chief Secretary to Government):* Yes. Very devoted servants.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* And high paid too.

Rao Sahib P. V. Raphael *(Chief Secretary to Government):* It will be too hard on them if the Government put any such restrictions upon their officers.

Now, Sir, so far as the circular is concerned somebody was saying that a circular has been issued and one Hon'ble Lady Member was saying that she saw it in a school.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* And that is true.

Rao Sahib P. V. Raphael *(Chief Secretary to Government):* I looked, Sir, into the files. At the instance of the Government I ransacked the files in the records, but I could not find any such circular debarring the wives of Government servants from standing for elections. I could not lay my hand on any such circular. There has not been absolutely any such circular, Sir. *(Hear, hear).* As such there is absolutely no need at all to bring any such resolution on the floor of this House. There is absolutely no such circular on the one hand and Government have not given any directions to any of their subordinates prohibiting their wives from standing

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

for election. I declare, Sir, on behalf of the Government on the floor of this House that the Government have not imposed any such restrictions on the wives of their officers and they are free to stand for elections. But Government.....

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know, Sir, whether it is stated otherwise, in the Vrischigam Session.

Rao Sahib P. V. Raphael *(Chief Secretary to Government)*: That is why I said that there has been some mis-understanding on the subject, and then we were answering on the spur of the moment. There is absolutely no such restriction on the wife of any Government servant from standing for election but as I submitted before Government expect, Sir, that in attempts of the wives of the Government servants for standing for election they wish very much that the officers of the Government are not entangled and get into trouble on account of these elections. It was only a warning of that kind that the Government have intended to give their officers 'your wives may stand for election but beware even without doing anything these are days when you are being accused when telegrams and telegrams are coming against you saying that you are participating in elections. Now your wife is standing for election beware and take particular care to see that you keep aloof and do not involve yourself in this election business'. That is all what Government wish their servants to do. The Hon'ble Members of this House also would wish very much that these elections are not effected by the influence of the Government servants. The only thing that Government very much wish is that the officer of Government should not simply because their wives are standing for elections and contesting them, identify themselves in the elections or take any the least part in these elections on behalf of their wives or on behalf of anybody else.. I suppose I have made the position of the Government clear. There is however one important effect of this resolution. That is, Sir, as was suspected there is some mis-understanding all over the State among the women-hood that the Government have prohibited some of them from standing for elections. Mrs. Francis has got to be congratulated for this resolution because she has been able by virture of this resolution to elicit in clear terms the Government's position on this resolution. She will be thanked by the women-hood of Cochin for that. I, therefore, think that there is no need for this resolution and request that the resolution may be withdrawn.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: But the mist still persists in spite of the explanation.

Mrs. T. Francis *(Ernakulam-Women)*: As I understood that there was a prohibition preventing the wives of Government officers in standing for election I sent a resolution, it was taken by the Government and tabled here. I wanted to get from the Government the real copy of the warning or the circular but I have not got it as yet. But, I am very thankful to the Chief Secretary to Government who explained the matter well and I may also, in bringing this resolution to this House make my sisters and brothers understand the position clearly. So I did not lose anything. I have gained, my sisters have gained and my brothers have gained. So I withdraw the resolution.

Resolution by leave withdrawn

VIII. DISCUSSION ON THE FOOD QUESTION

Mr. Deputy President: We will now take Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan's motion that the Food position in the State may be taken into consideration.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Sir, I move that the Food question in the State may be taken into consideration.

Mr. Parmabi Lonappen *(Irinjalakkuda)*: I second it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Sir, I consider it one of my proudest privileges that I get the third opportunity to discuss this vital question, namely the Food Question. Ever since the Food Supplies Department was administered by the Government of Cochin in a bold statesmanlike exceptionally clever manner as was done in the days of that real friend of Cochin' one of our Ex-Diwans-then Mr. Dixon, now what I do not know what has been added. As soon as the war started, Sir, the level of prices began to shoot up. The Government was alert. They introduced price control and improved arrangements for the distribution of essential commodities.

That was not seen to be working satisfactorily. A civil supplies department was within 3 months started. Then there was the first officer appointed. There was I believe a necessarily happy change a few months hence and the present Director of Food Supplies came to preside over this all important department, and I am glad to note that he still continues for the simple

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly